

Childers Votes to Fund Our Troops, Support North Mississippi Jobs, and Extend Unemployment Benefits

House Approves \$37.3 Million in Childers' Defense Appropriations Requests in Final Legislation

December 16, 2009

Washington, DC – Today, Congressman Travis Childers (MS-01) voted to ensure that our troops have the resources and protective equipment they need, and support jobs in North Mississippi. Final Defense Appropriations legislation includes \$37.3 million in appropriations requests submitted by Childers for projects that will improve the health, safety, and readiness of our armed forces, and that will support defense jobs in Mississippi's First Congressional District. In addition, today's legislation will provide two-month extensions of COBRA and unemployment benefits for hard-working Americans struggling to make ends meet under difficult economic conditions.

"The honorable men and women who serve our country make great sacrifices on a daily basis to protect our freedoms, and it's essential that they have the equipment they need to stay safe and do their job," said Congressman Childers. "Today's legislation provides significant funding in North Mississippi for the research and development of protective defense equipment that will help troops stay healthy and avoid dangerous conditions.

"In addition, this funding offers continued relief to hard-working North Mississippians who are struggling to make ends meet during today's difficult economic times. Projects receiving funding in the First District will provide support for high-paying defense jobs. In addition, the legislation includes extensions of COBRA and unemployment insurance to help unemployed individuals keep their families healthy and continue to put food on the table while they look for work."

I am extremely pleased that money for these projects has been included in final legislation, and I will continue to work hard to create jobs in the district and ensure that our troops have the resources they need."

Below are descriptions of the funding requests included in the final bill:

- **\$9,340,000 - Heron Maritime UAV (Southcom), Stark Aerospace, Columbus, MS**. The HERON Maritime UAS is a mature, proven, multi-role MALE UAV that provides commanders with the ability to perform Maritime Patrol missions at high and low altitudes by relaying wide area, real-time reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition, detection and identification information back to ground control and mission monitoring stations. With the Heron's Maritime Patrol Radar (MPR) it can detect and identify small targets at very long ranges. The HERON can fly much longer than manned systems, detect very small maritime objects, provide much quieter operations, requires fewer operators, and operate at a much lower cost than manned platforms.

- **\$8,100,000 - DDG-51 Hybrid Drive Propulsion System, General Dynamics, Shanon, MS**. This program will continue the development of a hybrid drive propulsion system for the DDG-51 Class destroyers by utilizing advanced motor technologies in an alternate propulsion configuration. This effort will save the Navy substantial fuel costs over the remaining life of each DDG-51 platform and will also extend the life of the existing propulsion system components. In addition to estimates that show that thousands of barrels of fuel per ship per year can be saved using this alternative propulsion approach, the hybrid drive system can also serve as an additional source of power when the ship is operating at higher speeds. The concept calls for design and development of a low speed propulsion alternative by utilizing current advanced electric motor designs and their requisite power electronics. This alternative system will provide more efficient low speed propulsion than the current DDG-51 gas turbine system and will provide additional electrical power generation at high speed operations. General Atomics and DRS have teamed on this innovative propulsion technology to ensure even more jobs are created or maintained in Mississippi.

- **\$4,000,000 - Army Center of Excellence in Acoustics, National Center for Physical Acoustics, University of Mississippi**. The ongoing conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, and urban operations in particular, have highlighted the value of acoustic sensors to alert and assist U.S. forces to identify and engage unfriendly combatants. The Army Center of Excellence in Acoustics (ACoEA), a cooperative partnership of the U.S. Army Armament Research and development Center (ARDEC) at Picatinny Arsenal and the University of Mississippi's National Center for Physical Acoustics, provides the U. S. Army with the latest in acoustics technology to support Army missions. The ACoEA spans the research and development spectrum from basic research that underpins numerous technologies, to advanced research directed at resolving specific Army needs, to development programs providing systems to deployed forces.

- **\$3,920,000 - Advanced, Long Endurance Unattended Ground Sensor Technologies, Mississippi State University** . Mississippi State University (MSU) proposes to conduct research and development of advanced, low power unattended ground sensor (UGS) technologies that will provide the special operations warfighter with total, reliable and up-to-the minute situational awareness. The proposed program will support ongoing research and development efforts with the U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) and their global war on terrorism. Specifically, the follow-on program will continue the research and development of small, low power UGS technologies that support critical USSOCOM reconnaissance and surveillance missions by providing robust: (1) target detection, imaging, tagging and tracking; (2) high bandwidth, covert communication of data, voice and video; and (3) data/information exfiltration via satellite communications (SATCOM) for display using advanced visualization technologies. Current prototypes developed under the existing program have demonstrated critical, new capabilities for USSOCOM for generating and delivering actionable intelligence from remote areas of interest to analysts and commanders worldwide in near real-time - ultimately allowing special operations forces (SOF) to think and react more quickly than the adversary.

- **\$3,120,000 - Development of Drugs for Malaria and Leishmaniasis in U.S Military and Civilian Personnel, University of Mississippi** . Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR) in partnership with the National Center for Natural Products Research (NCNPR) at the University of Mississippi will identify safe and effective alternatives to mefloquine for malaria prophylaxis and treatment. Recent cooperative work has opened new understandings of mechanisms of action and toxicities of the primaquine class. WRAIR and NCNPR have outlined a program for development of new analogs and combinations that can save lives by treatment and prevention of infections, and reduce the side effects of such treatments. Providing benefit to U.S. military and civilian personnel serving in areas where Malaria is a threat.

- **\$2,880,000 - VePro - Health Usage Monitoring and Vehicle Prognostics, NCode.** Vehicle and soldier safety are a major concern. Better understanding of operational usage severity is critical for vehicle designs to reliably meet needs at minimum cost and weight. Vehicle modifications, more aggressive operations "in theatre" and longer life expectations provide performance challenges. Durability failures continue to occur - endangering soldiers and increasing operational costs significantly. VePro will save some of the \$80b spent annually on maintaining U.S. Army equipment, improve readiness and reduce danger to soldiers from unexpected vehicle failures.

- **\$2,480,000 - Advanced Soldier Portable Power Systems Technologies, Ultralife Corp., West Point, MS** . Power demand, created by equipment and systems that

enhance situational awareness and operational capability in irregular warfare conditions, continues to increase on individual soldiers and amplify logistical problems. Future Force Warrior (FFW) power profiles operated by a common Grenadier illustrate an average power output requirement of 35 to 40 W as well as two 80 W peaks for 30 seconds. Ultralife and its partners will apply systems engineering and integration experience derived from its current effort to this problem, as well as move to manufacturing and commercialization of the hybrid power sources.

- **\$2,240,000 - Infectious and Airborne Pathogen Reduction, Luvata, Grenada, MS.** Mil-Copper and its alloys possess an intrinsic capability to quickly inactivate common disease-causing bacteria that thrive in hospital settings on touch surfaces/ medical units as well as fungal (mold) growth in air-handling systems. This program completes the research, design testing and evaluation initiated through the Copper Antimicrobial Research Program and the Copper Air Quality Program. Copper is now registered by the EPA to kill pathogens. The funding will support the research programs with an objective to evaluate improvements to infections through use of antimicrobial copper in medical units and HVAC systems in military units - tanks, VA hospitals, and barracks.

- **\$1,200,000 - SAVIOR (Surveillance Augmentation Vehicle), General Atomics, Tupelo, MS.** This project completes a production ready system that is a rapidly deployable ultra-high-resolution sensor/analysis and command & control vehicle yielding human target detection, recognition, and location in a 4 km diameter circle giving unprecedented levels of situational awareness for U.S. military operations.

A pro-gun, pro-life Mississippian, Congressman Travis Childers (D-MS) represents the First Congressional District in North Mississippi. He is a member of the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition and serves on the House Agriculture and Financial Services Committee. Congressman Childers co-chairs the reestablished bipartisan Congressional Rural Caucus and was appointed to the bipartisan Second Amendment Task Force. For more information, visit www.childers.house.gov

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